

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 531

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to proclaim the First Families of Tennessee the official register of Tennessee's early settlers and their descendants.

WHEREAS, the First Families of Tennessee was established in 1992 by the East Tennessee Historical Society to commemorate the 1996 Tennessee Bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the First Families of Tennessee is to honor the state's early settlers, recognize their descendants, build a research collection of frontier migration and settlement, and encourage interest, study, and pride in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, the First Families of Tennessee is open to anyone who can prove an ancestor's residence in what is now Tennessee by December 31, 1796; and

WHEREAS, there are 12,000 charter members of the First Families of Tennessee who submitted applications by the end of the Bicentennial year, 1996, representing all 50 states and eight foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, there are presently more than 14,000 First Families of Tennessee members; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee was the original gateway to the west, and millions of Americans today have Tennessee roots; and

WHEREAS, the First Families of Tennessee applications, which include the documentation of an ancestor's pre-1796 residence and the applicant's descent, comprise the largest known collection of material on individual early Tennessee residents and their descendants; and

WHEREAS, the collection is available to the public for family and historical research purposes at the East Tennessee History Center; and

WHEREAS, the First Families of Tennessee is a permanent and ongoing family heritage program of the East Tennessee Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, the book, *A Register of the First Families of Tennessee and Their Present-Day Descendants*, is a groundbreaking history of the State and its early residents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby proclaim the First Families of Tennessee as “The Official Register of Tennessee’s Early Settlers and Their Descendants.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.